ACTIVITY REPORT
2020
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INTRODUCTORY WORDS
FROM THE PRESIDENT

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

The year 2020 marked the 15th anniversary of LLLP and you can certainly imagine that we would have liked to celebrate this milestone in a different way but the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rethink our plans, be flexible and come up with new solutions which is actually the core of what lifelong learning means to us. So, adopting a positive view on this challenge we can say that the health crisis has shown very clearly the importance of lifelong learning through the need to constantly adapt to new situations, not only to enhance employability but also for personal development and democratic societies something that LLLP has been advocating for since its very beginnings.

While the disruption of the daily life caused by the virus has affected all human beings on Earth, the implications were particularly harsh for education and training. This new reality prompted us to rethink the very core of our lives, giving the utmost meaning to things that were taken for granted and questioning milestones of our learning systems.

After more than one year of pandemic life, it is clear that the COVID-19 crisis is not exclusively a health crisis, but that its effects on the social sphere are possibly even more devastating and long-lasting. The Lifelong Learning Platform is therefore more convinced than ever that education needs to address mental and physical well-being of learners and educators and we believe that this should be an overriding priority for Europe.

The European Union has been tackling the effects of the pandemic in different ways specifically placing even more emphasis on the green and digital transitions which we believe call for a substantial turn towards more sustainable societies. In 2020, we have addressed the contribution of a holistic lifelong learning approach to education as a means to turn education systems finally sustainable – socially, environmentally, and humanly.

Turning to remote work and education, digital learning has become one of the most important features that will remain and impact future societies. The efforts to empower digital learners however shall not come at the detriment of inclusion: access to technology, to the internet, to devices must become universal if we truly want to avoid that the already-existing skills gap will turn into an unmatchable digital divide. For the future of learning lies with digital skills, but also with substantial investments.

In times like these, the values that we strive to promote will play an even greater role. Inclusion, solidarity, and a society finally based on valuing all learning is what I believe constitutes the greater step to harness the (learning) opportunity of this crisis. We now turn to the future with a renewed hope to see these principles in action.

Arja Krauchenberg,
President of the LLLPlatform
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020
OUR YEAR IN A NUTSHELL

2020 IN A NUTSHELL

Access to 150+ EU networks
Organised 20+ (online) events
Represented LLLP in 250+ events
Involved in 20+ EU projects
Published 14 publications
20k followers across social media
A YEAR IN REVIEW

Click to explore
In 2020, the LLLPlatform released six main statements and reactions on a number of EU policy initiatives to highlight civil society’s views on the issues at stake. On top of these, LLLP produced an insightful position paper on “Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Societies.”
POLICY FOCUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has been our new normal throughout 2020. Its consequences have changed and are still changing the very norms that govern our lives. The health crisis immediately turned into a social and economic crisis and education was one of the sectors that paid (and still is paying) the most expensive bill.

LLLP has chosen to stop and reflect upon the many consequences that this unprecedented crisis is bringing us. First of all, it is important to realise that in education and training there has not been any «business as usual» and LLLP refused to align to the mainstream narrative that encouraged education actors to keep on sailing in the storm as if by burying ourselves in our houses was no big deal. Pedagogical provisions and education materials on keeping learners and teachers safe on the mental health side should be introduced in the emergency curricula: we hold the view that these should be priorities in the way the education system is addressing the current situation, which bears significant hardship on the wellbeing of all education actors. Well-being of all learners and educators should come first.

In the same way that economic recessions cause larger inequalities, today one of the most tangible results of the COVID-19 outbreak has been a wider gap between learners. Even in Europe, the wealthiest region in the world, there remain thousands of learners that are told to follow online courses but that do not have the means to do so. The universal access to education during the pandemic is problematic, to say the least.

All of these are unanswered calls from the past, which today resonate stronger than before.

POLICY FOCUS SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES

The global discourse on sustainability of humankind has taken a sudden turn on the account of the pandemic, but international institutions and cooperation on the topic has been strong for years. Education has a significant role to play in enabling the world to achieve full sustainability.

The role of lifelong learning in building sustainable societies remains a chronically overlooked and underfunded area. Because of this, LLLP has been devoting its efforts to increase its visibility and to provide meaningful recommendations to decision makers. We analyse the policy instrument available for education to make its way into the Sustainable Agenda in our Annual Conference and Experts’ meeting.

We have engaged with the European Parliament, the European Commission and representatives of the Croatian and German Presidency to make sure that Europe commits to more robust investment during the meetings of our Lifelong Learning Interest Group of the European Parliament. Last but not least, we addressed its implications for civil society during the 10th edition of the LLLWeek, the first-ever to be held completely online.

Education is a human right for all throughout life and therefore, we call on Member States to put in place lifelong learning entitlements providing all citizens with learning opportunities for both personal and professional development. Thus ensuring all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development at all ages and at any time in their life.
The Lifelong Learning Platform is a special network where capacity-building and knowledge-sharing happen daily! We leverage on the strengths of our network to create a true knowledge hub, envision projects, share results, reinforce each other’s claims, and build bridges to work together in the future. We stimulate our members to create common goals and empower them to achieve them.
**PROJECT COOPERATION**

**ADVOCACY THROUGH ERASMUS+**

**NEW PROJECTS IN 2020**

**What has the EU done to validate volunteering experience? A synthesis of this is the goal of **ImproVal**, that will bring together the best practices from previous projects.**

**LLLP’s EU project **Job Bridge** will improve the recognition and the validation of volunteers’ experiences and competences in a way that is valuable for employers too.**

**Mindful of inclusion issues, LLLP is partner in **TaMPADA**, which will develop an outreach mechanism to track long-term outcomes of disadvantaged adult learners’ participation in education.**

**Robotics as a first channel to coding is the focus of **CODESKILLS4ROBOTICS**, a project that seeks to facilitate the development of programming in primary schools.**

**In a world where news travels fast, **Open Your Eyes** seeks to improve the digital literacy of adult learners by providing them with tools to identify and fight the spread of online disinformation.**

**The project **INSCHOOL** will foster inclusive education principles in schools’ management through the emergence of a community of leaders such as managers, teachers and students.**

**LEAD! “specific LEArning Disorders no more!” aims to increase and promote social inclusion, in school education, and ultimately decrease early school leaving.**

**DIMELI4AC** is a project that will develop a toolbox to boost digital media competences, critical thinking and democratic values among students aged 10 to 15.

**In a world where news travels fast, **Open Your Eyes** seeks to improve the digital literacy of adult learners by providing them with tools to identify and fight the spread of online disinformation.**

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**The project **INSCHOOL** will foster inclusive education principles in schools’ management through the emergence of a community of leaders such as managers, teachers and students.**

**Upskilling in the field of guidance is more needed than ever! This is the aim of **KEEP IN PACT**, which seeks to develop an innovative ecosystem approach.**

**Through the **IN-QUAL** project, LLLP supports the implementation of quality assurance mechanisms in training and work-based learning for entrepreneurship education.**

**The project **COMORELP** will map and review existing lifelong learning policies in EU regions to develop transnational interregional Policy Lab with educational and training networks.**

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LLLP events are key bricks in our policy strategy: they step up our work and help us raise awareness of lifelong learning vis-à-vis relevant stakeholders.

In 2020, facing the disruption brought about by the pandemic, LLLP steadily adapted and started carrying out its event online, just like the rest of the world. Online events have their perks - for instance they allow us to connect instantly with partners all over the world, instantly raising the number of meetings and conferences we were able to participate in; at the same time, they unfortunately do not offer the same level of human interaction and constructive engagement.

Events remain a transversal and crucial tool for our activities, and help us capitalise on our knowledge. Events serve as focal point to then transfer this knowledge on to influence the policy work of the European institutions. Each of them has a unique purpose and each of them is a tool that we exploit to make sure our mission is fulfilled.
In January, LLLP was represented in the Committee of NGOs of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in New York.

3 February 2020: happy birthday LLLP! The Lifelong Learning Platform turns 15 years old: 15 years of advocacy for inclusive education!

The Lifelong Learning Interest Group of the European Parliament met twice, with a first meeting on Education for Sustainable Development in September.

In January, LLLP was represented in the Committee of NGOs of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in New York.

How can 21st-century schools be inclusive? The multiplier event of INSCOOL laid the foundations.

In May, LLLP held its first virtual Annual Conference, as an expert meeting on ‘Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development’. Experts from EU and UN institutions, as well as civil society representatives, stated the importance of a holistic approach to fully enable the transformative power of education.

In a digitalised world, fake news and disinformation thrive. LLLP’s project Open Your Eyes and its final conference helped identify major trends and possible solutions.

LLLP was a partner in the renewed Project Development Workshop with the ReSET network and, for the first time ever, with the ERRIN Network.

In 2020, LLLP held 7 internal Working Group meetings and one General Assembly.

... and 10 Erasmus+ Coalition meetings!

The LLLWeek20 went digital! Its first virtual edition managed to catalyse attention and registered almost 2000 participants - an all time record. Civil society and EU institutions discussed together the contribution of ‘Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Societies’.

In 2020, LLLP held 7 internal Working Group meetings and one General Assembly.

LLLP’s project Job Bridge helps identify and recognise volunteering competences, with employment goals in mind! Its final event was ground-breaking.
ABOUT LLLP
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

WHO WE ARE
The Lifelong Learning Platform is the unique non-profit umbrella organisation representing European Civil Society for Education. We bring together 42 European and international organisations active in the field of education and training promoting a holistic approach to education. Currently, these networks represent more than 50 000 educational institutions and associations covering all sectors of formal, non-formal and informal learning. We carry out our work and promote the work of our members vis-à-vis European institutions, and beyond.

OUR VISION
The LLLPlatform promotes a holistic vision of lifelong learning: we believe education is the key to foster equity, social cohesion and active citizenship.

The objectives of education and training should not only be described in terms of employability or economic growth but as a framework for personal development. LLLP believes education should not be limited to formal systems and we emphasise non-formal and informal learning as well.

OBJECTIVES
1. Pursue an active dialogue with European institutions
2. Enable exchanges of best practice, experiences and expertise
3. Disseminate information on key issues in the lifelong learning sector
4. Organise events and develop activities on transversal lifelong learning topics
5. Promote a more democratic, civic and social Europe.
## FUNDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>223,000</td>
<td>281,466</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>65,255</td>
<td>62,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>315,121</td>
<td>218,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## LLLP IN NUMBERS

### OUTREACH IN 2020

- **Website**
  - 200k page views
  - 50k unique users

- **Social media**
  - 20k followers
  - 1.5mln outreach
  - 40k engagements

- **Newsletter**
  - 7.2k subscribers
THE LLLPLATFORM
AND OUR STRUCTURE

THE LLLPLATFORM
A GROWING NETWORK

From civil society, to civil society.

Members of our members are strongly rooted on the ground so that LLLP’s positions and stances are always a bottom-up process.

LLLPl’s pool of experts and professionals is growing by the hour.

Members of our members are strongly rooted on the ground so that LLLP’s positions and stances are always a bottom-up process.

With EU civil society cooperation at the heart of our mission, we join forces to amplify our messages.

LLLPl will be growing! In 2020 YouthProAktiv joined as a candidate member and more civil society organisations are submitting membership applications right now!

ACTIVITY REPORT 2020 - LLLPLATFORM
THE PLATFORM

OUR MEMBERSHIP

FULL MEMBERS

- AEGEE: Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe
- ALL DIGITAL: Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe
- DARE: European Digital Learning Network
- D-Learn: European Digital Learning Network
- ECSWE: EuropeanCouncil for Steiner Waldorf Education
- EDEN: European Distance and E-learning Network
- EEA: European Association of the Education of Adults
- EECWE: European Council for the Promotion of New Education
- EFA: European Educational Exchanges Youth for Understanding
- EFE: European Forum for Intercultural Learning
- EFIN: European Students' Union
- EFAE: European Union of the Education of Adults
- EFVET: European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- EPA: European Parents' Association
- EucA: European University College Association
- Eucen: European University Continuing Education Network
- EUNE: European Network for Education and Training
- EURASHE: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education
- EUROCLIO: European Association of History Educators
- EVBB: European Association of History Educators
- FICEMEA: International Federation of Training Centres for the Promotion of New Education
- EVTA: European Vocational Training Association
- ICCE: International Federation of Training Centres for the Promotion of New Education
- L4WB-F: Learning for Well-Being Foundation
- OBESSU: Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions
- SOLIDAR: Advancing Social Justice in Europe and Worldwide
- Volunteurope: Volunteering, Social Justice, Active Citizenship
- WOSM: World Organization of the Scout Movement
- YEU: Youth for Exchange and Understanding
- EFIL: European Federation for Intercultural Learning
- ECNAIS: European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools
- EMDR: European Association
- EARLALL: European Council of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning
- ESHA: European School Heads Association
- EFU: European University Foundation
- FEDEC: European Federation of Professional Circus Schools
- FREREF: European Regions Foundation for Research in Education and Training
- ICC: International Language Association
- ISCA: International Sport and Culture Association
- RICdM: Réseau International des Cités des métiers
- SIRIUS: Network on Migration Education
- UNIMED: Mediterranean Universities Union
- EUnionE: European Network for Education and Training
- EURASHE: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education
- EUROCLIO: European Association of History Educators
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THE PLATFORM
OUR STRUCTURE

The LLLPlatform relies on three main bodies and their tight relation: the General Assembly, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat. The General Assembly is the highest body of the association, it defines the annual priorities and objectives of the LLLPlatform and its work programme. Headed by the President, its annual meeting is attended by all the members.

The General Assembly defines the annual priorities

The Steering Committee is the administrative body of the LLLPlatform. It is composed of a maximum of nine representatives from the network. The Steering Committee is in charge of the administrative tasks of the association and of the implementation of the work programme adopted by the General Assembly. In 2020, Arja Krauchenberg was elected to replace the outgoing LLLP President Luis Costa, whom we wholeheartedly thank for his work and dedication.

The Steering Committee implements the workplan adopted by the GA

The Secretariat ensures the day-to-day management of the LLLPlatform, and it is based in Brussels. In 2019, the LLLPlatform also created a Pool of Experts, who counsels and represents LLLP on selected topics.

The Secretariat ensures the day-to-day management

WORKING GROUPS

WG EU2020

The LLLP Working Group on Europe 2020 shares expertise on issues related to the European 2020 Agenda.
- On May 26th, the WG discussed the renewed Skills Agenda, MFF deals & future EU strategies. It also debated the new LLLP Advocacy Strategy for 2021-2023.
- On November 16th, it approves its own Work Plan for 2021-2023

WG DIGITAL LEARNING

The LLLP Working Group on Digital Learning aims to build members’ capacity to contribute to the EU’s digital agenda.
- On October 19th, it met to define LLLP’s position on the Digital Education Action Plan
- On December 14th, it discussed synergies between LLLP and members’ projects and LLLP’s policy work on media literacy. Such a synergy was deemed particularly useful in times of pandemic.

WG WIDER BENEFITS OF LEARNING

The LLLP Working Group on Wider Benefits of Learning seeks to create a space for members to exchange views about the wider benefits of learning, with a strong focus on learners.
- On June 18th, the WG discussed LLLP’s position on policies related to early-childhood education and care, as well as its contribution to the LLLP’s Advocacy Strategy.
- On December 4th, during the LLLWeek, the WG addressed LLLP Position Paper on “Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Societies” as well as its own work plan for 2021-2023.

VALIDATION TASK FORCE

The Validation Task Force brings together members and other partners (CEV, YFJ, EESC, Cedefop) around the topic of validation of non-formal and informal learning.
- On June 22nd, the Task Force debated the EC study on the evaluation of the VNFIL Council recommendation
- On November 25th, it met to address the validation implications of the European Education Area as well as of the renewed Skills Agenda.
The LLLPlatform would like to thank Luis Costa, Joanna Pankowska and Jean-Marie Dujardin, who terminated their mandates in 2020.

The LLLPlatform would like to thank Andrew Todd, Riccardo Gulletta, Juanma Báez Ramírez, Tekle Tadesse and Victoria Cowell who left LLLP in 2020.
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